

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application.

Claims 1-23 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6-8, 10, and 14-21 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1-12 and 14-16, and added new Claims 17-23. Claims 6-8, 10-12, and 14 are allowed.

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has left those claims in dependent form inasmuch as Applicant believes that their respective base claims are allowable for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 13, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,060,113 (Banno, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,312,864 (Tokai, et al.). Applicant traverses this rejection.

As generally recited in independent Claims 1, 15, and 16, Applicant's invention is directed to a method of producing an image-forming apparatus. The method includes a step of arranging a plurality of first electrodes and second electrodes on a rear plate; a step of forming a plurality of column-directional wires, wherein each of the column-directional wires connects commonly a plurality of the first electrodes; a step of forming a plurality of row-directional wires, wherein each of the row-directional wires connects commonly a plurality of the second electrodes, and each of the row-directional wires cross some of the column-directional wires; and a step of forming an insulating layer at each of intersections between the row-directional wires and column-directional wires.

The Banno, et al. patent is directed to a method of producing an electron-emitting device. The Office Action cites this patent as showing, in Figures 8A and 8B, the arrangement of rows and columns of wires discussed above with respect to Claims 1, 15, and 16. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with that position and submits that Figures 8A and 8B of the Banno, et al. patent merely show examples of the arrangement of a face plate, not the arrangement of electron-emitting devices, and respective wirings, corresponding to the pixels of a face plate. More specifically, Applicant submits that Figures 8A and 8B merely show the arrangement of black conductor 1091 in relation to phosphor 1092, with Figure 8A showing a striped pattern and Figure 8B showing a matrix pattern. Applicant submits that such features are conventional in the art and are not suggestive of the arrangement of the underlying wirings and electron-emitting devices.

Figures 6, 7, 10-13, 21, 22, 36 and 37 of the Banno, et al. patent show the arrangement of electron-emitting devices and respective wiring patterns corresponding to a face plate. Applicant submits that the arrangement of features shown in those figures neither corresponds exactly to the actual pixel pattern shown in Figure 8B, or suggests the features of the present invention.

The Tokai, et al. patent is directed to a method of producing a patterned film and is cited by the Office Action as describing a high definition photolithographic process. Applicant submits that the Tokai, et al. patent does remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to the Banno, et al. patent.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Banno, et al. and Tokai, et al. patents, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of

intervals of row-directional wires being larger than those of column-directional wirings, with each of the row-directional wires crossing some of the column-directional wires, as recited in independent Claim 1. In addition, Applicant submits that those patents fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of each of row-directional wirings crossing some of column-directional wirings and forming an insulating layer at each of intersections between the row-directional wirings and column-directional wirings, as recited in independent Claims 15 and 16.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant also submits that new independent Claims 17-21 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to the rejected independent claims and for reasons similar to those for which the other independent claims of this application were allowed. In particular, Applicant notes that independent Claim 17 recites that the cross-sectional area of the row-directional wirings is larger than the cross-sectional area of the column-directional wirings, as also recited in allowed independent Claim 6. New independent Claim 18 recites that the width of the row-directional wirings is wider than the width of the column-directional wirings, as also recited in allowed independent Claim 7. New independent Claim 19 recites that the thickness of the row-directional wirings is thicker than the thickness of the column-directional wirings, as also recited in allowed independent Claim 8.

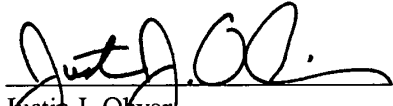
The remaining claims in this application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and are thus patentable over the documents

of record for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied patents. Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration thereof.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. At the very least, Applicant believes that the Amendment reduces the number of issues for appeal. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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